

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) An information source monitor device for use in browsing data files having a hyperlink structure on server computers interconnected by a network through a client computer, comprising:

reference information storing means for storing a referring URL (Uniform Resource Locator) that referred to a data file accessed by the client computer as reference information; and

counting means for counting the reference information to obtain a total number of times references made for each referring URL.

2. (Original) The information source monitor device as set forth in claim 1, wherein said information source monitor device is incorporated into the client computer.

3. (Original) The information source monitor device as set forth in claim 2, wherein said information source monitor device is constructed as a part of a browser in the client computer.

4. (Original) The information source monitor device as set forth in claim 1, wherein said information source monitor device is positioned at a relay point between the server computers and the client computer.

5. (Original) The information source monitor device as set forth in claim 1, further comprising reference information extracting means for extracting information of a referring URL from a request header which is issued by the client computer when the client computer accesses a data file on the server computer.

A 6. (Original) The information source monitor device as set forth in claim 5, wherein said reference information extracting means extracts a data type of a data file from a response header which is issued by the server computer when the client computer accessed the data file on the server computer.

7. (Original) The information source monitor device as set forth in claim 6, further comprising sorting means for counting the reference information according to data types to find a total number of times reference was made to each referring URL.

8. (Original) The information source monitor device as set forth in claim 1, further comprising data converting means for converting data of the reference information into a displayable data format.

9. (Original) The information source monitor device as set forth in claim 1, wherein said reference information storing means further storing a text belonging to a data file accessed by the client computer.

10. (Original) The information source monitor device as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

A information accumulating means for accumulating as a cache a predetermined amount of data files accessed by the client computer; and

information updating means for updating data files at referring URLs and data files linked to the data files at the referring URLs at a predetermined link level in the cache at predetermined time intervals according to a counting result of the reference information by accessing a corresponding server computer.

11. (Original) The information source monitor device as set forth in claim 10, further comprising searching means for searching the data files in the cache.

12. (Original) An information source monitoring method for use in browsing data files having a hyperlink structure on server computers interconnected by a network through a client computer, comprising the steps of:

storing a referring URL that referred to a data file accessed by the client computer as reference information; and

counting the reference information to find a total number of times reference was made to each referring URL.

13. (Original) A computer-readable storage medium including a recorded program for executing an information source monitoring process when browsing data files having a hyperlink structure on server computers interconnected by a network through a client computer, comprising:

a program for enabling a computer to execute storing of a referring URL that referred to a data file accessed by the client computer as reference information, and counting of the reference information to find a total number of times reference was made to each referring URL.

14. (Withdrawn) A network information display method for selectively displaying proposed access points when browsing file objects having a hyperlink structure on server computers interconnected by a network through a client computer, comprising the steps of:

(a) allotting an index of importance to a referring address that referred to a file object accessed by the client computer according to a referred frequency of the file object;

(b) detecting whether file objects which were accessed by the client computer in the past have been updated on the server computers; and

(c) when updates of the file objects are detected, displaying the referring addresses of the file objects in order of the index of importance.

15. (Withdrawn) The network information display method as set forth in claim 14, wherein said step (b) includes the step of detecting appearance of a new hyperlink,

and

when the appearance of the new hyperlink is detected, a display element to which the new hyperlink is attached is displayed together with the referring address in such a state that a hyperlink is attached to a corresponding file object.

16. (Withdrawn) The network information display method as set forth in claim 15, wherein when a changed display element consists only of an image file, a hyperlink attached to the image file is regarded as a new hyperlink only if the address of the hyperlink attached to the image file is judged no longer than a predetermined length.

17. (Withdrawn) The network information display method as set forth in claim 14, wherein said step (b) includes the step of detecting changes in display elements to which the same hyperlink is attached, and

when a changed display element is detected, the changed display element is displayed together with the referring address in such a state that a hyperlink is attached to a corresponding file object.

18. (Withdrawn) The network information display method as set forth in claim 14, wherein, in said step (b), an upper limit is set on the number of the referring addresses of updated file objects to be displayed, and

A when the number of the referring addresses of updated file objects to be displayed exceeds the upper limit, a message indicating that the number of detected updated file objects exceeds the upper limit is displayed in such a state that a hyperlink is attached to a detail display of updated file objects that are not displayed.

19. (Withdrawn) The network information display method as set forth in claim 14, wherein only when a data size of a file object at the referring address differs from a data size of the file object obtained by a previous access by an amount of not less than a predetermined value, said step (b) detects the file object as an updated file object.

20. (Withdrawn) The network information display method as set forth in claim 14, wherein when a last modified time of a file object at the referring address differs from a last modified time of the file object obtained by a previous access, said step (b) detects the file object as an updated file object.

21. (Withdrawn) The network information display method as set forth in claim 14, wherein the allotment of the index of importance is determined according to a browsing history of a user in a past certain period.

22. (Withdrawn) The network information display method as set forth in claim 14, wherein the allotment of the index of importance is determined according to data types.

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23. (Withdrawn) A storage medium storing as a computer-readable program a network information display method for selectively displaying proposed access points when browsing file objects having a hyperlink structure on server computers interconnected by a network through a client computer, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) allotting an index of importance to a referring address that referred to a file object accessed by the client computer, according to a referred frequency of the file object;
- (b) detecting whether file objects which were accessed by the client computer in a past have been updated on the server computers; and
- (c) when updates of the file objects are detected, displaying the referring addresses of the file objects in order of the index of importance.

A¹ 24. (Withdrawn) A computer for executing the program as read from the storage medium of claim 23.

25. (New) The information source monitor device of claim 1, wherein:

said reference information storing means stores at least a referring URL as

A² reference information, when the client computer makes an access to a URL of a lower hierarchical order than the referring URL, that is hyperlinked to a HTML page of the referring URL; and'

said counting means for counting a referred number of times of the referring URL stored in said reference information storing means.
